*Their Eyes Were Watching God*

Zora Neale Hurston

Zora Neale Hurston: 1891-1960

Native Daughter of Eatonville, Florida

Eatonville, Florida

Eatonville is a town in Orange County, Florida, United States, six miles north of Orlando. It is part of the Orlando–Kissimmee metropolitan statistical area. The town includes the Eatonville Historic District.

Eatonville, Florida

ZoraFest: Annual \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Celebration in Eatonville, Florida

Okechobee Hurricane -1928

Okechobee Hurricane Devastation

Basics

**Setting**: Florida, primarily West Florida, Eatonville, and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 late 19th century to 1928

**Main events**: building of Eatonville

 Okechobee Hurricane of 1928

**Major Characters**: Janie Crawford

 Jody Starks

 Teacake (Vergible Woods)

Language

Speech versus \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 When does one speak and when does one hold her tongue?

Janie’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is an important element of the story.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ formality of narrator’s voice versus the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of the Florida blacks

 Why does Hurston combine the two very different uses of language? What is the purpose of this particular delivery?

Use of other rhetorical devices: metaphor, synecdoche, sensory imagery, foreshadowing, irony

Symbols

the pear tree

Janie’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

animals

hurricane

Subjects

Race and racism

Community

Female struggle for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in a male-dominated society

Love and relationships

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of nature

(As you read the novel, develop themes for these subjects.)

Quotes about the Novel

Andrea Rushing (former Harvard and current Amherst professor): “[the novel] affirms black cultural traditions while revising them to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ black women.”

Mary Helen Washington (University of Maryland professor): “Here, finally was a woman on a quest for her own \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . . .”

Doris Grumbach (author and critic): “the finest black novel of its time” and one of the finest of all time.”

Alice Walker (author of *The Color Purple*) had this inscription placed on Hurston’s gravestone: “Zora Neale Hurston/’A Genius of the South’/Novelist/Folklorist/Anthropologist/1901-1960”